

U.S. Appln. No. 09/839,872
Reply to Office Action dated August 25, 2005

PATENT
450100-03167

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present After-Final Amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application and does not require further search.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 10, and 15, which are independent, have been amended. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the specification as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1-4 and 6-8 are directed to an apparatus, claims 5, 9 and 15 are directed to a method and claims 10-14 are directed to system which are all statutory subject matter.

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III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,097,811 to Micali (hereinafter, merely "Micali") in view of Cryptography and Network Security, section 11.2 "X.509 Authentication Service" to Stallings (hereinafter, merely "Stallings").

Independent claim 1, recites *inter alia*:

"...first detecting means for detecting a change of said layer structure of said directory which is managed by said managing means and obtaining first differential information constructed by a difference of the change of the layer structure of said directory;

second detecting means for detecting a change of said end entity information of said leaf entry which is managed by said managing means and obtaining second differential information constructed by a difference of the change of end entity information of said leaf entry; and

broadcasting means for broadcasting said first differential information detected by said first detecting means and said second differential information detected by said second detecting means..." (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Micali relates to managing certificates in a communication system having a certifying authority and a directory where requesting users no longer receive the latest list of revoked certificates. Micali utilizes a tree based authentication technique that allows the directory to convince users whether a given certificate is still valid.

As understood by Applicants, Stallings relates to authentication functions that support application level authentication and digital signatures.

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing has been found in Micali or Stallings, taken alone or in combination, that would teach or suggest the above identified features of claim 1. Specifically, Applicants submit that Micali and Stallings fail to teach or suggest a first

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detecting means for detecting a change of said layer structure of said directory which is managed by said managing means and obtaining first differential information constructed by a difference of the change of the layer structure of said directory, a second detecting means for detecting a change of said end entity information of said leaf entry which is managed by said managing means and obtaining second differential information constructed by a difference of the change of end entity information of said leaf entry, and a broadcasting means for broadcasting said first differential information detected by said first detecting means and said second differential information detected by said second detecting means, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, independent claim 1 is believed to be patentable.

For reasons similar to or somewhat similar to those described above with regard to claim 1, independent claims 5, 6, 9, 10, and 15 are believed to be patentable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the

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Examiner specifically indicate the portion, or portions, of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By Thomas F. Presson
Thomas F. Presson
Reg. No. 41,442
(212) 588-0800